

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Cabhlach Hákon (2)

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'SpeakGaelic Extra', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,267. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 963 corresponds to Litir 1,267. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learn Gaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learn Gaelic.scot.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun chabhlach a chuir Rìgh Hákon a dh'Alba ann an dà cheud deug, seasgad 's a trì (1263). Dh'fheuch an dà thaobh ri thighinn gu rèite shìtheil. Ach dh'fhàilnich orra. Tha e a' coimhead coltach gum biodh Rìgh na h-Alba, Alasdair III, riarachtaichte gun a bhith a' faighinn smachd air cuid de na h-eileanan. Ach bha grunn eileanan ro chudromach dha.

Dè na h-eileanan? Uill, chan e na h-Eileanan Siar co-dhiù. B' iad na h-eileanan a bha fìor phrìseil don dà thaobh – Eilean Bhòid, Arainn agus na Cumaraidhean – Cumaradh Mòr agus Cumaradh Beag. Bha iad cudromach a chionn 's gum biodh e furasta gu leòr faighinn gu meadhan na h-Alba, nam biodh smachd aca air Linne Chluaidh, far a bheil na h-eileanan sin.

Mar dhearbhadh air sin, chuir Hákon cabhlach suas Loch Long gu ruige Tairbeart Loch Laomainn. Thug na Lochlannaich an longan tarsainn gu Loch Laomainn fhèin. Às a sin, chaidh iad gu àiteachan ann am meadhan tìr-mòr na h-Alba, eadhon faisg air Sruighlea.

Bha Hákon airson sealltainn do mhuinntir na h-Alba cho cumhachdach 's a bha na Nirribhich. A bharrachd air sin, thug e ionnsaigh air tìrean nan Stiùbhartach faisg air Loch Laomainn. Bha na Stiùbhartaich air a bhith a' toirt ionnsaigh air na h-eileanan 'Lochlannach' agus bha Hákon a' **dèanamh dìoghaltas** orra.

Bha cuid de luchd-taice Hákon air a bhith a' toirt rabhadh dha gun do sheòl iad à Bergen ro fhada anns an t-samhradh agus gun do dh'fhuirich iad ro fhada ann an Sealtainn. Fhad 's a bha **am feachd** aig Hákon a' dèanamh sgrios air tìr-mòr na h-Alba, bha droch shìde an fhoghair air nochdadh. Bha gèile ann. Thug i droch bhuaidh air a' chuid a bu mhotha de longan Hákon a bh' air acair faisg air Arainn. Thathar ag ràdh gun deach deich longan Lochlannach a sgrios anns an stoirm.

Bha cuid de na longan air an iomain gu tìr faisg air an Leargaidh Ghallda. Bha boghadairean Albannach a' feitheamh riutha. Bha strì is sabaid ann mus deach na Nirribhich air ais don chabhlach aca. B' e sin tachartas air a bheil Blàr na Leargaidh Ghallda no '*The Battle of Largs*'. Chan e blàr mòr a bh' ann idir agus cha do bhuannaich taobh seach taobh.

Cha robh e ciallach do Hákon fuireach anns an sgìre agus fìor dhroch shìde a' gheamhraidh air fàire. Math dh'fhaodte gun robh e dhen bheachd gun robh e air gu leòr a dhèanamh airson dearbhadh gun robh smachd aige fhathast air cuid mhath de

thaobh an iar na h-Alba. Thug e an cabhlach aige gu tuath, tro Chaol Àcain, gu ruige Arcaibh.

Ach cha robh an turas aige gun sgiorradh. Chaidh iad a-steach a Loch Euraboll air a' chosta mu thuath. An sin bha sabaid air tìr le buidheann de dh'Albannaich a bha a' cumail sùil orra. Air an naoidheamh latha fichead dhen Dàmhair, chaidh iad a-null a dh'Arcaibh. Chaill iad aon long eile air an turas-mhara air sàillibh na droch shìde. Às Arcaibh, chaidh a' chuid a bu mhotha de na longan dhachaigh a Nirribhidh ach dh'fhuirich an rìgh ann an Arcaibh. Ge-tà, mar a chì sinn, cha bhiodh e beò fada.

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Faclan na Litreach: dh'fhàilnich orra: *they failed*; Linne Chluaidh: *The Firth of Clyde*; gèile: *gale*; Arainn: *Arran*; An Leargaidh Ghallda: *Largs*; gun sgiorradh: *without unfortunate incident*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Dh'fheuch an dà thaobh ri thighinn gu rèite shìtheil: *the two sides tried to come to a peaceful agreement*; riarichte gun a bhith a' faighinn smachd air cuid de na h-eileanan: *satisfied not to gain control of some of the islands*; b' iad na h-eileanan a bha fìor phrìseil: *the islands that were exceptionally precious*; Eilean Bhòid, Arainn agus na Cumaraidhean – Cumaradh Mòr agus Cumaradh Beag: *Bute, Arran and the Cumbraes – Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae*; suas Loch Long gu ruige Tairbeart Loch Laomainn: *up Loch Long to Tarbet Loch Lomond*; thug na Lochlannaich an longan tarsainn gu Loch Laomainn fhèin: *the Scandinavians took their ships over to Loch Lomond itself*; eadhon faisg air Sruighlea: *even close to Stirling*; thug e ionnsaigh air tìrean nan Stiùbhartach: *he attacked the lands of the Stuarts*; ro fhada anns an t-samhradh: *too late in the summer*; gun do dh'fhuirich iad ro fhada ann an Sealtainn: *that they stayed too long in Shetland*; thug i droch bhuaidh air a' chuid a bu mhotha de longan Hákon: *it badly affected most of Hákon's ships*; gun deach deich longan a sgrios: *that ten ships were destroyed*; bha boghadairean Albannach a' feitheamh riutha: *Scottish archers (bowmen) were waiting for them*; cha do bhuannaich taobh seach taobh: *neither side was victorious*; dearbhadh gun robh smachd aige fhathast air cuid mhath de thaobh an iar na h-Alba: *to demonstrate that he still controlled much of western Scotland*; chaill iad aon long eile air an turas-mhara air sàillibh na droch shìde: *they lost another ship on the sea journey because of the bad weather*; mar a chì sinn, cha bhiodh e beò fada: *as we shall see, he wouldn't be alive long*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Fhad 's a bha **am feachd** aig Hákon a' dèanamh sgrios air tìr-mòr: *while Hákon's force was causing destruction on the mainland. Are you aware of the 'gender' rule connected to words that end in -achd? If they have a single syllable, they are masculine e.g. beachd, feachd, sneachd, riochd, uchd, luchd. If they have two or more syllables they are feminine e.g. carachd, naidheachd, feallsanachd, rìoghachd, tiormachd, Gàidhealtachd, sàbhailteachd, cùbhraidheachd, uaisleachd. If you can think of any exceptions, let me know!*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: bha X a' dèanamh dìoghaltas orra: *X was gaining revenge on them.*

Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA